

**From:** Governor Cooper's Press Office [govpress@nc.gov]  
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**Subject:** Weekly Newsletter: September 22, 2017



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

### Highlights of the Week

### Helping Communities Recover from Hurricane Matthew



On Thursday, Gov. Cooper traveled to Fair Bluff to thank students and staff of Columbus Career and College Academy (CCCA) for their volunteerism during and after Hurricane Matthew. Amid the devastation from Matthew, CCCA acted as a Red Cross emergency shelter, taking in neighbors affected by the hurricane. The governor also visited residents at a housing complex that recently reopened after being severely damaged in Hurricane Matthew.

"Help can't come quick enough for those who have been left homeless from a hurricane," Cooper said. "The recovery process is long and we still have a lot more work to do. We need to get people back into their former homes or into new, safer homes."

**[Read more about the governor's hurricane recovery visit here.](#)**

**6 Million Meals for Meals on Wheels**



On Wednesday, Gov. Cooper and First Lady Kristin Cooper delivered the 6 millionth meal with the Meals on Wheels program in Winston-Salem. The governor and first lady met with Rosalie Young, a Meals on Wheels recipient, and talked with her about the importance of the program to seniors across North Carolina. Gov. Cooper also recognized the hard work of the many volunteers who fight hunger statewide.

"These volunteers knock on people's doors and they visit them and deliver nutrition," Gov. Cooper said. "But they offer kindness and friendship and companionship and deliver a message on behalf of this community that we care about you."

**[Read more about Gov. Cooper's Meals on Wheels visit here.](#)**

**Protecting Our Drinking Water**



On Thursday, Gov. Cooper vetoed House Bill 56, arguing that the legislation only symbolically addresses unregulated, emerging contaminants in North Carolina's drinking water. HB 56 does not provide resources to state agencies whose mission is to protect drinking water from illegal chemicals. The bill also unduly rolls back environmental protections regarding landfills, river basins and beaches.

"This cynical legislation fails to address the concerns of families in the Cape Fear region and does nothing to protect drinking water statewide going forward," said Gov. Cooper.

**[Read Gov. Cooper's full statement here.](#)**

**NC Joins U.S. Climate Alliance**



This week, Gov. Cooper announced that North Carolina will join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition currently made of 15 states that are committed to reducing their share of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

"Clean air and a healthy environment are vital for a strong economy and a healthier future," Gov. Cooper said. "So much of North Carolina's economy relies on protecting our treasured natural resources, and I'm committed to maintaining the quality of their air we breathe for generations to come."

This is just the latest action taken by the Cooper Administration to help combat climate change. Gov. Cooper recently signed into law House Bill 589, Competitive Energy Solutions for North Carolina, which will roughly double North Carolina's solar generation over the next four years.

**[Learn more about North Carolina's role in the U.S. Climate Alliance here.](#)**

**Wishing Livingstone College Students Well at Fall Convocation**



On Friday, Gov. Cooper traveled to Salisbury to deliver a fall convocation address to students and faculty at Livingstone College, a historically black college. During his remarks, the governor encouraged students set intentions for the upcoming schoolyear and the years to follow.

"Living with purpose means something different for every person," Gov. Cooper said. "I'd like to share with you what living a life of purpose means to me, and then I'd like to challenge you to think about what it means to you."

**Photo of the Week**

Father, son on opposing sides of WFU-ASU game / D1

# WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

September 21, 2017 \$1.00

THURSDAY

www.journalnow.com



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## Maria destroys homes, triggers flooding

Category 5 Hurricane knocks out power all across Puerto Rico

BY JEFFREY HARRIS

WHITNEY COOPER

**MAVILDO MORALES** (left) and his wife, Maria, have added to the mounting toll of Puerto Rican deaths since Hurricane Maria hit the island as a Category 5 storm with winds of 155 mph. It passed the island of Hispaniola with winds of 140 mph, then hit Puerto Rico with winds of 130 mph, the second time in three months. The couple, who are both 70, are staying in a shelter in a nearby town.

Photo: WHITNEY COOPER

MAP: WHITNEY COOPER

Leaving across other paths, Maria has added to the mounting toll of Puerto Rican deaths since Hurricane Maria hit the island as a Category 5 storm with winds of 155 mph. It passed the island of Hispaniola with winds of 140 mph, then hit Puerto Rico with winds of 130 mph, the second time in three months. The couple, who are both 70, are staying in a shelter in a nearby town.

Photo: WHITNEY COOPER

MAP: WHITNEY COOPER



Local family awaits word on Maria's damage to home

BY WHITNEY COOPER

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**Quake relief push begins**

Local group plans to send water, food and other vital aid

BY WHITNEY COOPER

WHITNEY COOPER

**Local leaders and the American Red Cross are helping to coordinate relief efforts to help earthquake victims in Mexico.**

A magnitude 8.1 earthquake struck central Mexico on Tuesday, killing at least 30 people. Police, firefighers and medical volunteers dug frantically through the rubble of collapsed homes, schools and apartment buildings Wednesday, looking for survivors.

Thursday's quake struck on the 23rd anniversary of the 1994 earthquake that killed about 10,000 people.

The Rev. Dennis DeGarmo, director of the United Christian

employees' Christian ministry, said he spoke with church leaders Wednesday about ways to help the earthquake's victims in Mexico. The church has been involved in relief and recovery since before Hurricane Irene, he said.

"It's very encouraging, but we are still trying to figure out exactly what we will do, because it's the right thing to do."

He said DeGarmo is leading him and Thursday's quake will help him figure out what to do. "It happened Sept. 7 in the eastern part of the country," he said. "That is a major earthquake. It's hard to know what to do, but it has affected a large part of

More Inside  
Mexico's leader promises not to ban other workers  
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## 6 million meals



Photo: WHITNEY COOPER

Photo: WHITNEY COOPER</



**Governor Roy Cooper**  @NC\_Governor · Sep 19  
Gov. Cooper on [#GrahamCassidy](#) Health Care Legislation:



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR  
**ROY COOPER**

The latest proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act may be even worse than previous proposals: raising premiums, weakening protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and slashing over \$1 billion from North Carolina's Medicaid program. North Carolina's middle-class families will be worse off if this passes.

Senate Republicans in Washington must work with Democrats to reach a bipartisan solution that expands health care coverage and makes it better.

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